



# HF Happenings



South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iaru.org](http://www.iaru.org) [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)

No 636

December 2014

## Greetings

Carina and I wish you and yours a very Blessed Christmas and enjoy the time with your family.

To our Jewish readers, we wish a Happy Channukah.

For those readers not covered above, seasons greetings.

## The Draft Amendments to the Radio Regulations Published

The draft amendments to the radio regulations have been published. ICASA has published draft amendments to the radio regulations that were originally published on 31 March 2011. The amendments will influence Amateur Radio. ICASA is following a consultative process inviting comments on the draft by 13 February 2015. It is expected that the final revised regulations will be gazetted at the start of ICASA's financial year on 1 April 2015.

Some of the impact on radio amateurs is the increase in power on certain bands, limiting the age of ZU licensees to 25, which means that when a ZU license holder reaches 25 years of age the license will be cancelled and amendments to who may be in possession of a continuous tuning receiver above 30 MHz.

The South African Radio League will be studying the draft amendments and invites radio amateurs to do the same and send their comments to [sarlregwg@sarl.org.za](mailto:sarlregwg@sarl.org.za) by 15 January 2015 for consideration by the League council when finalising the South African Radio League comments to ICASA.

*In an e-mail survey of IARU Region 1 Member Societies, it has been found that Hungary has an Entry licence, which is available, if the examinee between 10 - 18 years old or over 60 years old. The other MS either have no age limit or state a lowest age when a licence can be obtained.*

*I am still waiting for information from Region 2 and 3. The WIA has no age limit on its entry-level licence.*

## A New Name Proposed for the RTA and a Call for Papers

The Radio Technology in Action will get a new name and new look in 2015 with more focus on practical application and presentations on operating activities. The proposed new name is Hamradio Africa 2015

The proposed dates for Hamradio Africa 2015 are Cape Town 6 June, Durban 25 July, Johannesburg 22 August and Pretoria 19 September.

5 September has tentatively been set aside for Port Elizabeth pending discussions with PEARS to boost attendance at the PE event. *Alternatively, Bloemfontein on 5 September.*

Proposals and papers are now called for at two levels, a national presentation, in other words the paper is presented at all venues and local papers for presentation at the local venue where the author resides. Send a brief synopsis of the paper and indicate local or national. Authors submitting proposals for national papers should indicate if they require South African Radio League funding or can

find their own sponsorship for travel and accommodation.

Send proposal to [rta@sarl.org.za](mailto:rta@sarl.org.za) to reach the organisers by 31 December 2015.

Your comments and suggestions on the name Hamradio Africa 2015 are also invited

### Worked All ZS Grids Squares

Yes, the WAGS Award is still active. To help you achieve yours, I will be travelling through the following grid squares on Sunday 21 December starting at about 10:30 - KG30 then KG20 (small piece) and into KF29 (Colesburg) then KF28 (Nieu-Bethesda and the Owl House). From there to KF27 (Cradock), KF37 (Bedford) and KF36 (Grahamstown and Port Alfred). The HF rig can operate on 7 090/7 095 and 10 130 kHz.

Let me know what grid squares you need and we can set up a sked - [zs4bs@iaru-r1.org](mailto:zs4bs@iaru-r1.org) or Whatsapp.

### New LotW Record

The ARRL's Logbook of The World online card-less contact confirmation service has recorded a new milestone of 100 million QSL records out of some 630 million uploaded contacts.

That is an increase of more than 18 million QSL records since the end of last year. WJ1B from the ARRL commented that if placed end to end, that many QSLs would reach more than 17 000 miles or 27 358 km — not quite all the way around the world, but enough to qualify as a 'long-path' QSO.

### Iron Ham Contest

Drawing inspiration from the Ironman Triathlon races, the Araucaria DX Group sponsors the WW Iron Ham Contest, a competition that combines the main operating modes (Phone, CW and RTTY) into one single contest.

The third edition will be held on 27 and 28 December (from 12:00 UTC on Saturday to 11:59 UTC on Sunday). The 24-hour contest is organised to have 8 hours of operation on each mode in periods no shorter than one hour. Complete details can be found at [www.ironham.com.br](http://www.ironham.com.br).

### December

3 – Day of Persons with Disabilities  
7 – SARL Digital Contest  
10 – Schools close  
12 to 23 – 2014 Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg  
13 and 14 – ARRL 10 Metre Contest  
16 – Day of Reconciliation  
24 – Christmas Eve  
25 – Christmas Day  
26 – Family Day  
27 and 28 – Iron Ham Contest  
31 – 2014 CQ Marathon ends; Old Year's Eve

### January 2015

1 – New Year's Day; start of ZS90SARL; start of CQ Marathon  
10 and 11 – Hunting Lions in the Air  
14 – Inland schools open  
16 to 18 – PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest  
21 – Coastal schools open  
24 – Summer QRP Contest

### HF Beacons

The Northern California DX Foundation's 5Z4B HF beacon went off the air due to equipment failure back in August but is now back up and running. The RR90 HF beacon had also been off the air since late September but its TS-50 has been repaired and it is back on the air. This system of precisely timed and coordinated beacons is a good reason to support the NCDXF <http://www.ncdxf.org/>.

### Women in Early Radio

This story from yesteryear tells of the important role played by women in early radio. There were many women in radio rooms around the world from the very earliest days. <http://www.themarysue.com/female-ham-radio-operators/>

### Word to the Wise

What is the right word meaning "a group of testers"? Like an "exultation of larks" or a "gaggle of geese," surely there can be a word for us. In the latest issue of the

DKARS Magazine, Steve PJ4DX suggests a "cluster" or "cacophony" of contesters.

[http://stats.dkars.nl/wim/dkars/s?magazine.hdufbrbW.201412&ns\\_type=pdf&mail\\_id=41&mail\\_lang=english](http://stats.dkars.nl/wim/dkars/s?magazine.hdufbrbW.201412&ns_type=pdf&mail_id=41&mail_lang=english)

### Don Wallace, W6AM

Don Wallace, W6AM, was a legendary DXer for his skill, his antenna farm of rhombics, his mobile kilowatt, and more. Jim, K7EG, relays word of this 1,5-hour YouTube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5iVb-3MHEY> about Don and his station.

Filed in 1984, the video is presented by the California Radio Historical Society <http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/>. The antenna farm and external feed line-switching frame appear a bit after the hour mark but you will enjoy all of the tales in this extended interview by Wayne, N6NB, for the PBS series, "Radio Collector."

### Results and Records

CQ WW Director, Randy K5ZD, reports that the raw scores for the CQ WW DX Contest CW 2014 are now available <http://www.cqww.com/raw.htm?mode=cw>.

As at 21:00 UTC on 7 December, more than 7 000 logs had been received! The raw scores are calculated by the CQ WW log checking software *before* log checking but with duplicate contacts removed. The score you see online may be different than the one submitted with the log due to differences in the country files and from some contacts not being accepted. If you see a large difference, please report this to [questions@cw.com](mailto:questions@cw.com).

If you do not see your log in the raw scores, first confirm that the log has been received by visiting the Logs Received page [http://www.cqww.com/logs\\_received\\_cw.htm](http://www.cqww.com/logs_received_cw.htm).

### Optimised Wideband Antenna

WA3FET is known in amateur circles as "Doctor Jim" and is a well-known antenna designer and professor at Pennsylvania State University. The OWA (Optimised Wideband Antenna) beam designs used by many top contest stations are one of his creations along

with many novel antennas found at research facilities like the Arecibo Observatory and the recently decommissioned HAARP facility in Alaska.

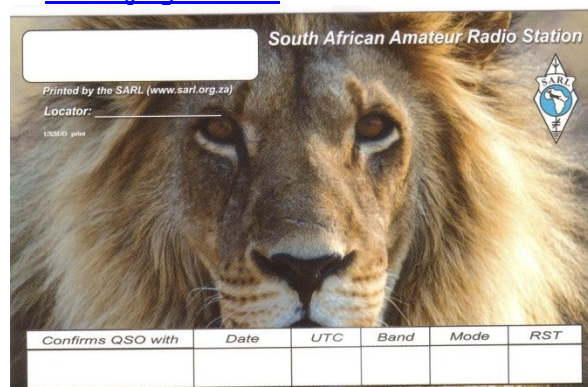
Read more about Jim and his career, including some good PR for amateur radio, in this recent EEWeb interview

<http://www.eeweb.com/spotlight/interview-with-dr.-jim-breakall>.

### QSLing is the final courtesy of a QSO

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card, which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, including postage. To order, pay in the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL account.

Account details: ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005. Send details of the delivery address and proof of payment to [zs6wwwj@gmail.com](mailto:zs6wwwj@gmail.com)



### African Islands



IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



### African DX

V5, Namibia. Dietmar, DL3DXX, will be paying Martin, V51W, a visit from 19 to 29 December. He will be active as V5/DL3DXX, mostly on CW with a focus on 160 and 80 m, including



also the Stew Perry contest. QSL via home call, direct via the bureau and ClubLog.

9Q, Democratic Republic of Congo. The Radiomateur Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ARAC) has invited the Italian DXpedition Team of Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA, Stefano, IK2HKT, Mac, JA3USA, and Alfeo, I1HJTK to Kinshasa for March 2015. The purpose of the activity will be "theoretical and practical training and refresher courses" for the local operators in order to further develop amateur radio in the country.

Plans are for Silvano and his team to operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 - 6 metres as 9Q0HQ. Further information, log search and OQRS can be found at [www.i2ysb.com/idt](http://www.i2ysb.com/idt).

The pilot stations will be IK7JWY and IK0FTA (for 6 m); a dedicated forum is on [www.hamradioweb.net](http://www.hamradioweb.net).

### Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 15 to 22 December 2014

#### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 17 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 18 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

#### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 17 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 20 December 2014

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

#### NAQCC CW Sprint

01:30 - 03:30 UTC 18 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: <1 watt

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 21 December 2014

E-mail logs to: [naqcc33@windstream.net](mailto:naqcc33@windstream.net)

Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at:

<http://naqcc.info/sprint201412mw.html>

#### NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 19 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 21 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

#### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 20 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

#### NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: December 21, 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

#### Russian 160-Metre Contest

20:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op

Multi-Op

Exchange: Rus: RS(T) and Oblast code; non-Rus: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each DXCC entity once

Each Oblast once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 3 January 2015

E-mail logs to: [contest@radio.ru](mailto:contest@radio.ru)

Upload log at:

<http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php>

Mail logs to: Radio Magazine, 10 Seliverstov per., 107045 Moscow, Russia

Find rules at:

<http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/90.html>

#### AGB-Party Contest

21:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 December

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed; Multi-Op; Digital; 1 Hour; SWL

Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and member no; non-Member: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each DXCC/WAE country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 16 January 2015

E-mail logs to: [eu1eu@mail.ru](mailto:eu1eu@mail.ru)

Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU, PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus

Find rules at:

[http://www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb\\_party.htm](http://www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm)

#### Feld Hell Sprint

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 20 December

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

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Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 27 December 2014

Upload log at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/Happy-Birthday-Rudolph-Sprint>

OK DX RTTY Contest

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 20 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band (Low/High); Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and CQ Zone

QSO Points: 10 - 20 m: 1 point same continent, 2 points different continent; 40 - 80 m: 3 points same continent, 6 points different continent

Multipliers: DXCC Countries, once per band; OK stations, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (DXCC mults and OK mults)

Submit logs by: 3 January 2015

Upload log at:

<http://okratty.crk.cz/index.php?page=send-log>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://okratty.crk.cz/index.php?page=english>

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

00:01 UTC 20 December to 23:59 UTC 4 January

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country

Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS No. and name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at: <http://arlhs.com/LCL-2014.html>

Croatian CW Contest

14:00 UTC 20 December to 14:00 UTC 21 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Multi-Single

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: HP: 100 or more watts; LP: <100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: Own continent: 2 points 40 - 160 m, 1 point 10 - 20 m; other continents: 6 points 40 - 160 m, 3 points 10 - 20 m; 9A stations: 10 points 40 - 160 m, 6 points 10 - 20 m

Multipliers: DXCC/WAE Countries, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 January 2015

Upload log at:

<http://www.hamradio.hr/hfrobot>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://9acw.org/index.php/rules/english/99-rules-2014>

ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW

18:00 - 23:59 UTC 21 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: Single Op Rookie; Multi-Op Rookie; Non-Rookies

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name, 2-digit year first licensed and state, province, XE area or DX

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-rookie; 2 points per QSO with rookie

Multipliers: Each US state and DC once; Each VE province once; Each XE call area once; One DX once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 24 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

[http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr\\_scoresubmission.php](http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr_scoresubmission.php)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 22 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://fpgrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpgrp.org/pigrun/>

## Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 24 December

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 24 December, 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 25 December

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 26 December

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 December  
DARC Christmas Contest, 08:30 - 10:59 UTC 26 December

RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 27 December

World Wide Iron Ham Contest, 12:00 UTC 27 December to 11:59 UTC 28 December

Stew Perry Top band Challenge, 15:00 UTC 27 December to 15:00 UTC 28 December

Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 27 December to 15:00 UTC 28 December

RAEM Contest, 00:00 - 11:59 UTC 28 December

## History this Week

Week starting 15 December 2014



1599 - In Scotland, an ordinance was issued that 1 January should thenceforth be accounted the first day of the year in Scotland

1838 - Battle of Blood River

1839 - First celestial photograph, the moon, made in the US by John Draper, New York NY

1849 - William Bond obtains the first photograph of Moon through a telescope

1879 - Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, New Jersey.

1890 - Telephone service introduced in Japan between Tokyo and Yokohama

1892 - The first U.S. patent issued for a pneumatic automobile tire that could readily and easily be detached or mounted to the rim of a wheel.

1903 - The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the Kitty Hawk at Kill Devil Hill

1928 - First autogiro (predecessor of helicopter) flight in US

1965 - Largest newspaper-Sunday New York Times at 946 pages (50¢)

1974 - The pioneering Altair 8800 microcomputer was first put on sale in the U.S. as a do-it-yourself computer kit \$397



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin

